



# **SAN ANTONIO POLICE**

**Office of the Chief of Police, Police Media Services, 214 W. Nueva, San Antonio, Texas 78207  
Office Telephone (210) 207-7579, Fax (210) 207-7567, Police Dispatcher (210) 207-7484**

**CONTACT: Michelle Kleiss    DATE: September 29, 2009    RELEASE NO: 09-135**

## ***Media Advisory***

### ***Texas Drivers Hold the Key to Auto Burglary and Theft Prevention***

On Wednesday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and Noon, the Regional Auto Crimes Team (ReACT) will be at the Target store located at 746 N.W. Loop 410, formerly Central Park Mall. They will be on hand to provide FREE VIN etching on your vehicles, HEAT Registrations and reminding Texas drivers of extra precautions they can take when leaving their vehicles unattended.

Every five minutes, a car is stolen in Texas. More than likely, the driver's valuable possessions, left in the vehicle, have also disappeared. Vehicle-related crimes can be prevented if drivers remember to "Hide Their Belongings. Lock Their Cars. Take Their Keys."

ReACT is a multi-jurisdictional vehicle crimes prevention task force consisting of law enforcement agents from the San Antonio Police Department, the Bexar County Sheriff's Office and the Texas Department of Public Safety. In 2008, 85,353 motor vehicles were stolen. This accounts for an economic loss of over \$747 million.

Did you know leaving keys in your vehicle is illegal? Yes, that's right. Not only is it illegal to leave your keys in your unattended vehicle, but if your vehicle is stolen with the keys in it, your insurance company may not cover your loss. Nearly a third of all vehicles stolen had the keys left inside the vehicle.

"We cannot stress enough to Texas drivers that they 'Hold the Key' to auto burglary and theft prevention," said Lt. Mike Ritchey, Unit Director for ReACT. "Being aware of the things they can do to prevent these crimes, as well as the anti-theft devices available to protect their vehicles, such as kill switches and VIN-etchings, will help deter thieves and make neighborhoods safer."

#### **Top 5 Stolen Vehicles in San Antonio 2008:**

1. Honda Civic
2. Ford Pickups (F150, F250, F350)
3. Dodge Ram ½ ton pickups
4. Chevrolet Silverado ½ ton pickups
5. Honda Accord

#### **Top 3 Months for Stolen Vehicles in San Antonio 2008:**

1. July
2. September
3. August

A Vehicle is stolen every hour in San Antonio and burglarized every 15 minutes! Remember you 'Hold the Key':

- Lock** – your car
- Take** – your keys & personal belongings
- Hide** – items you MUST leave in your vehicle

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**